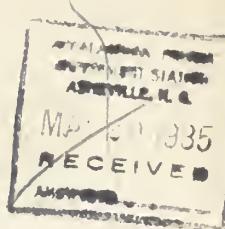


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THE DIXIE RANGER



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THE FOREST BEARS WITNESS

In 1832, the State of Georgia undertook to survey the lands in North Georgia which had been acquired by treaty from the Cherokee Indians. These mountainous lands were at that time known as Cherokee County.

Accordingly, the land was divided into districts, most of which were nine miles square. These districts were then sub-divided into lots which varied in size, the majority being half a mile square, containing one hundred and sixty acres. The district and lot lines were run in the cardinal directions.

At each lot corner a tree was blazed and scribed on four sides, at an angle of forty-five degrees to the intersecting lot lines. The number of the lot which the blaze faced was cut into the wood with a timber scribe. The figures were made about three inches high and one and a half inches wide, while the cut itself was a semi-circular groove, having a diameter of about one-eighth of an inch. After the "corner tree" was marked, four other trees approximately five chains distant on each lot line were blazed as "station trees". On two sides of these "station trees" were cut the numbers of the lot facing the tree.

Today the United States Forest Service is buying and surveying much of this mountain land, thus necessitating the re-location of these old corners. As one hundred and three years have passed since this work was done, most of the originally marked trees have been cut for lumber or destroyed, but we are able to find many of them yet alive and bearing witness of the original surveys.

The blazes have grown over and only an expert can distinguish a marked tree from its neighbors in the forest. However, close observation reveals a slight irregularity in the bark where the cut was made, this old wound being more noticeable on some trees than others. It is almost impossible to identify such a scar on white oak, due to the continuous shedding of the outer bark. The mountain oak, poplar, black gum, persimmon and dogwood blazes are more easily recognized, while holly is the most cooperative species, the evidence of the wound being much more discernible. All of the hardwoods tend to heal over a blaze completely, leaving a deformation in the bark only, but on the pines a trace of bark extends outward from the old blaze.

When these trees are found they are "blocked", that is, we cut into the tree below and above the apparent old scar and split off the block between the two cuts. This split will usually take place exactly at the old blaze, for the wood never grows back together perfectly, but simply folds itself over the scar.

If the tree is in good health the original figures on the old blaze are as easily read today as they were the day they were put there. They occur also on the block taken out, but of course they are negative or reversed. Since the figures in the tree were cut as a groove, the figures on the block are raised, due to the filling up of the groove by the over-lapping growth of the tree.

Many interesting observations can be made concerning these old figures. One is the increment of the tree as shown by the thickness of the block. This varies, even among trees of the same species. One block taken out of a mountain oak that grew on a rocky ridge was approximately four inches thick, while another mountain oak, growing on a more favorable site, had embedded the figures with over twelve inches of growth. The black gums ranged from two to four inches, while the hollies had only three-fourths of an inch to one and a half inches growth over the old blaze.

The annual rings of the more rapidly growing trees can be very readily counted and invariably one hundred and three rings are found between the blaze and the bark, thus giving us accurate proof that these are the original trees marked during the survey of 1832.

R. I. Lowndes, Jr.,
Chief of Survey Party,
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST.

SOAP SUDS COMBATS POISON IVY

According to the American Forestry Association, G. A. Hill, professor of chemistry at Wesleyan University, has some new and interesting ideas about the cause and cure of ivy poisoning. He does not think the sap causes the trouble, as is the common belief, but that the plant's weapon is a "poison present in the resin canals." These canals may be found in the roots, the bark, the leaves, and in certain parts of the flower.

Professor Hill says that contact with the poison is essential to initiate a case of ivy poisoning, but that this is easier than it sounds. "It is entirely possible to contact the poison," Professor Hill says, "although a person does not touch any part of the plant. Droplets of the poisonous oil are left on the coats of dogs, cattle and other animals,

and if these droplets are subsequently brought in contact with the skin of a person, severe poisoning may result." You may even be poisoned by smoke, providing that in the clearing out and burning of underbrush, poison ivy supplies the fuel for the fire. Tiny droplets of the poisonous oil may be carried into the air on the small particles of solid matter which make up the smoke. When the smoke comes in contact with the skin, the droplets cause a perfect case of *Rhus* dermatitis.

The best way to beat the villain is to know it when you see it and then stay away from it, but if you are not sure you have done this successfully, Professor Hill tells you what to do next: "Since the oil is non-volatile and not soluble in water, it will remain where it has touched the skin unless it is absorbed or removed. The removal may be accomplished by an alcohol rinse, but better still by washing the parts of the body which may have been exposed to contact with the soil with a rich lather of soap suds--an ordinary laundry soap is best. The oil is then emulsified and can do no harm.

"If the skin absorbs the oil--you will know whether it has or not--a cure may be effected by applying a five percent solution of ferric chloride, an iron salt, dissolved in equal parts of alcohol and water. Or you may use the old snakebite remedy, potassium permanganate, applied in a four percent water solution." Other good applications recommended are calamine lotion or similar preparations of zinc oxide, limewater, and a dash of carbolic acid. Recently an extract of the plant used hypodermically has given good results."

If anyone has the idea that he is immune to ivy poisoning, it seems to be a mistake because immunity is an uncertain thing. Individuals lose it without apparent cause. The theory that Indians and Negroes are immune to it has long since been blasted.

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SUPERVISORY CHANGE IN SOUTHERN REGION

Supervisory changes affecting the Ouachita and Kisatchie Forests and the Code Office in New Orleans will become effective June 1.

Clinton G. Smith will go from Kisatchie to New Orleans to become Senior Code Examiner, succeeding E. W. Hadley who will become supervisor of the Ouachita. Mr. Hadley will take the place of Arthur H. Hartman who becomes supervisor of Kisatchie.

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"DIVISIONS" IT IS

The Department wishes the same scheme of designation used in field units as is followed in the Forest Service in the District of Columbia, which means that units previously designated as "Branches" shall now be known as "Divisions."

Henceforth, in pursuance of the instructions, staff units in Regional Offices, such as Range Management, Operation, and so forth, will be known as "Divisions."

HEARD AND REMEMBERED

GRADE-CROSSING
JOB TO
BPR

According to the Washington news, the roadbuilding activities to be undertaken with funds provided by the work-relief bill will be directed by the Bureau of Public Roads and State highway departments. This applies also to the new program for railway grade-crossing improvement.

NEW DEPARTMENT

Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois introduced a bill into the Senate on April 24 to empower the President to organize within two years the present Interior Department as a Department of Conservation and Works. The measure is stated to have been introduced at the request of Secretary Ickes with Presidential approval.

DRAFTSMEN EXEMPT

The construction code authority has ruled that draftsmen while engaged in their accustomed duties under the employ of members rendering professional service shall be considered as engaged in professional work and shall be exempt from the maximum hours provision of the code.

REAL SES PROGRAM

With the expanded CCC program for soil-erosion camps, it looks as though that important phase of conservation will have a break at last. Until recently this work was limited to demonstration projects. Now, where the proper cooperation is forthcoming, it will include private lands.

Rural ELECTRIFICATION

Appropos of the announcement of the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration with an appropriation of \$50,000,000: W. T. Norcross, Forest Service Chief Engineer, was a major figure in preparing the preliminary report for the President that resulted in the establishment of the youngest member of the Federal alphabet family.

EXPERIMENTAL HOUSE USES WOOD

Wide publicity for prefabricated systems of house building, especially the steel method, probably increased interest in the Forest Products Laboratory's prefabricated all-wood house that was demonstrated in Madison, Wisconsin, in March.

The structure, which included living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bath, and utility room in a space of 21 by 29 feet, contained, in addition to the plywood in its panels, 5400 board feet of lumber of various kinds. It was completely erected in 21 hours by 7 men. In writing about the new house in the Southern Lumberman, G. W. Trayer, Senior Engineer at the Laboratory, after commenting on phases that require further study, says: "It is felt, however, that a substantial beginning has been made toward the realization of a mass-production all-wood house on a

strict economy basis, with adequate provision for an American standard of comfort and convenience. Active interest of the wood industries has stimulated development of the project to this point and is counted on to see it through to a definite and favorable outcome."

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THE LOOKOUT

Assistant Regional Forester H. O. Stabler gave an illustrated talk at Conner Hall, University of Georgia, on May 14. He was accompanied to Athens by Mrs. Stabler.

Assistant Regional Forester C. F. Evans will address the Georgia Forestry Association in Macon on May 17. The Association will hold its fourteenth annual convention May 17 and 18. One of the principal speakers will be Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Eloise Gerry, of the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, visited the Regional Office last week on her way to Florida.

Mrs. Bess Taggart of the Division of Accounts and Miss Marion Field of the States Relations Division have had tonsil operations. Mrs. Taggart went to Scottsboro, Kentucky, to have her tonsils removed. Miss Field had per operation performed in Atlanta. Both are making good recoveries.

J. A. Murphy and H. B. Herms went to Louisville for the Derby, but were rained out and listened to the radio broadcast in their hotel room.

The Nantahala Tennis Club, through its secretary, A. R. Karling, has invited other members of the Forest Service family to bring their tennis rackets to Franklin to enjoy the club's two fine new courts. It is suggested that the Regional Office and the Forests develop tennis teams for a Regional Tennis Tournament. Mr. Karling will be glad to communicate with anyone who is interested.

The first Regional Office marriage occurred on April 5 when Mrs. P.A. Hartley, formerly of the Accounts Division, was married to Colonel F. J. Paxon, President and Treasurer of Davison-Paxton Company of Atlanta. Colonel and Mrs. Paxon have gone to Atlantic City and will sail from New York on May 25 for an extended tour of Europe. When they return to Atlanta in September, they will make their home at the Biltmore Hotel.

DIXIE DUCKPIN BOWLING LEAGUE

Official Standing
as of May 10, 1935

	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
Eastern Air Lines	16	5
USFS "Woodpeckers"	15	6
Five Points Shoe Rep.	11	10
USFS "Engineers"	9	12
DuPont Powder Co.	9	12
Eastman Kodak	3	18

Individual Averages

"Woodpeckers"

Kramer	105.8
Murphy	105.17
Bell	100
Neiman	92.5
Herms	92.1
Fagan	91
Stone	91
James	86
Stevens	82.2

"Engineers"

Heffner	105.13
Kieny	95.3
Cain	92
Vogel	91.13
Gay	89
Pidgeon	85.2
Williamson	83.8

--H. B. Herms.